

SEMI-WEEKLY
Polk County Observer

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NO. 12

**\$250,000 IN TAX
MONEY IS
RECORD**

**DELINQUENT TAX LIST FOR 1912
TO BE MUCH LESS THAN FOR
SEVERAL YEARS, SAYS
SHERIFF.**

PAYMENTS GENERALLY MORE

**Less Rebate Payments, Yet Total Re-
ceipts Are Greater For Same Pe-
riod; Is Indication of Prosperous
Conditions of County; New Suits
Include Actions for Divorce.**

Tax collections approximating more than \$250,000 were paid into the county sheriff's office of Polk county up to 5 o'clock p.m. on Monday, April 7, when the final limit of tax payments for the year expired. As the total tax roll for this year amounts to \$294,215, this shows a delinquent list of about \$45,000, which is a smaller than for several years, it is said.

There were less rebate payments this year than ever before, yet more money was received. This is accounted for by the fact that many of the heavy taxpayers paid their full taxes and secured the rebate, while, in former years, they have taken advantage of the half-payment provision of the statute. Still another feature of the payments this year has been the large number which have been made in full after the rebate limit expired, many people, evidently, either ignoring or overlooking the rebate to which they were entitled.

Sheriff Grant says that the average of payment this year has been higher than ever before, and that the delinquent list is correspondingly much less. However, there will be a noticeable difference in the amount of money received, owing to the lower valuation placed on the property of the county. The 1911 roll showed a total valuation of \$400,000 more than the 1912 roll, and the total amount of taxes last year was \$305,000 in round numbers, while this year it is \$294,000 or \$11,000 less.

Tax payments indicate that the property holders of the county are growing more prosperous each year. The fact that more full payments have been received than ever before would indicate that there is more money in the hands of the taxpayers, and that their financial condition has improved. Local banks state that they have loaned less money for tax payments than for several years, which would also tend to bear out the assertion that Polk county people are prosperous.

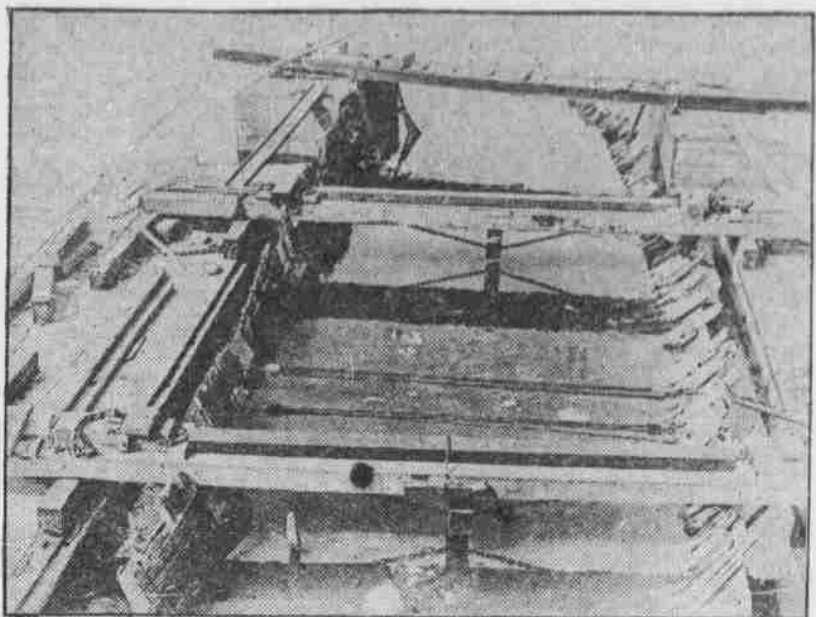
Among the recent suits filed on the docket of department No. 2, of the Polk circuit court, is an action for divorce, brought by Minta White against Henry D. White. The complaint sets forth the fact that the couple were married at McCormack, Wash., on June 25, 1903, and that they lived together until within the past year, when the "plaintiff, emfwpv in year, when the "defendant, disre- garding his duties as a husband, and without the connivance or consent of plaintiff, for more than a year past, has deserted and absented himself from plaintiff and failed and neglected to, in any way, provide for her support and live with her." Plaintiff asks the court for a decree of absolute divorce and for the restoration of her maiden name, Minta Lemon. It is stated that there are no children and no property rights to be settled. J. H. Flower, of Falls City, appears as counsel for the plaintiff.

L. A. Bollman and V. C. Staats have begun an action in department No. 2 against John L. Shelton and various others to quiet title to lots in Dallas, more specifically described as the "west half of lots four and five in Conkey's third addition to the city of Dallas." Brown & Sibley appear for the plaintiff.

Under the direction of the county court, the circuit court room will be brightened up considerably and placed in first-class condition for the regular term of department No. 1, of the circuit court, which convenes on May 12. The lineolium will be varnished, brass binding strips tacked down, and all the wood work, including the seats and furniture, will be supplied with a liberal coat of varnish. Judge Teal declares that "the Polk county court room will be the neatest in the state," when the proposed improvements shall have been completed.

First in The Observer.
Dallas people were permitted to read President Wilson's message in The Observer hours before the Portland dailies reached the city on Tuesday, and those who do not take the Portland papers, still had the message because they read The Observer. This newspaper was first, as usual, and there is no "whisper" about it.

**Perry's Old Flagship Niagara
Resurrected From Lake Erie**



Photos by American Press Association.

PERRY'S flagship, the Niagara, is being raised from the waters of Misery bay, Erie harbor, where it has rested since the battle of Lake Erie, Sept. 10, 1813. The upper picture shows the Niagara from stern end of the boat, taken from a crane thirty feet above the stern end of the boat. The lower picture shows three of the men who helped raise her. The opening wherein one of the men is standing, is one of the gun ports. The boat was raised six feet above the water line by the use of pontoons and was then beached. She will be rebuilt. The historic old warship was covered with a housing as soon as beached.

**CLERK IS CAUGHT MORE PRIZES FOR
IN ACT SCHOOLS**

**RAILWAY MAIL MESSENGER
CHARGED WITH CRIME.**

**Policeman Dave Grant and W. L. Bar-
ber Eye-Witnesses; to Be Returned
to Dallas For Preliminary Hearing.**

Charging the crime of indecent exposure against James Stevenson, United States railway mail clerk, on the Portland and Dallas run, who is substituting for E. S. Piper, a warrant was sworn out yesterday afternoon by W. L. Barber, as private prosecutor in Justice Hardy Holman's court, and the warrant was telegraphed to the Portland police, asking for Stevenson's arrest. As the accused is in the employ of the government mail service, the warrant could not be removed from him here, as he could not be removed from his run. He left for Portland on his regular trip at 2:00 o'clock yesterday. He is about 25 years of age, and is said to be married.

Officers Watch.
Complaints of Stevenson's alleged actions while the Southern Pacific passenger train is parked in the yards each day, had been made to the authorities here and yesterday, Night Policeman David Grant and W. L. Barber took up their position in a dwelling house near the track where the train is parked awaiting leaving time in the afternoon. According to the allegations of the officers, Stevenson, who was alone in his mail car, committed the crime while young girls and women were passing. The watchers in the house were eye-witnesses to the act and the complaint and warrant are the result. Sheriff Grant will go to Portland this morning to bring the prisoner to Dallas for his preliminary hearing.

NO BOXING BOUTS FOR DALLAS

**Sheriff Grant Turns Down Appli-
cation From Portland Sports.**
Dallas will not enjoy (?) the privilege of witnessing what are termed "boxing bouts" according to a decision made Wednesday by Sheriff Grant, when a Portland promoter, assisted by local talent, approached the sheriff on the subject. He turned down the proposition emphatically and declared that nothing of the kind would take place anywhere in Polk county if he could prevent it, and it is hinted that he can "cut the mustard."

**MORE PRIZES FOR
SCHOOLS**

**NEW CIRCULAR ANNOUNCES
NEW PRIZES FOR CHILDREN**

**Cash, Phonographs, Flags and Other
Things of Value Offered; Induce-
ments in Industrial Contest.**

Designed to keep continually before the children of the state the industrial work of the department of education, the following communication has just been promulgated by the state superintendent, regarding the industrial competition at the coming state fair:

"Our last article told about the five cash prizes—\$100, \$75, \$50, \$25, and \$10—to be given to the counties that make the best showing in the children's contest.

"In any county not entering this competition, any and all one-room schools may enter the district competition. The first prize in this is a Victor phonograph and twelve records, given by the publishers of the Rural Spirit. This would be a fine thing for entertainment in the school and a great aid in making the school a social center.

"The second prize is an eighteen-inch library globe, given by the Northwest Furniture company, a useful article in any school. The third prize is a school flag given by the publisher of the Pacific Northwest. The fourth prize, another school flag, given by A. L. Mills, president of the First National bank, Portland, and the fifth prize is a Babcock tester, given by Monroe and Cress.

"Every school should show its patriotism by floating the stars and stripes. A Babcock tester should be in every school. Its use is one of the best ways to teach percentage, and it will encourage an interest in dairying.

"This industrial contest is one in which every girl and boy attending school can take a part. While the pupils are thus educating their school and county, and increasing their pride of home and patriotism, they are also learning to do something useful—something by which they can earn a living and can also make of themselves more valuable citizens.

**CONCERT PROGRAM
NOW READY**

**THIRD ANNUAL EVENT BY DAL-
LAS BAND TO BE INTERESTING.**

**In Addition to Band Selections Will
Be Solo Numbers, Vocal and In-
strumental and Select Readings.**

Arrangements for the third annual band concert are well in hand and the affair gives promise of success. It will take place in the new armory on Wednesday night, April 16, and will consist of new and popular selections by the band, solos by local talent and musical solos by members of the band. C. M. Newman, of Portland, a slide trombone player of ability, has been engaged for the occasion, and will render one or more solos during the evening. There will also be a cornet solo by B. A. Downey, recently of Portland, director of the band.

This will be the first appearance of the band since its reorganization, and all who attend are assured of a treat. In connection with the band concert will be several selections rendered by the Dallas orchestra of 11 pieces, also under the direction of B. A. Downey. All soloists will be accompanied by the orchestra.

The boys have been practicing faithfully three times a week for the past two months in order to perfect themselves in the new and difficult music which they have essayed, and some new and interesting selections will be heard. Admission has been placed at 35 and 50 cents, and reserved seats may be secured at Staffin's drug store.

For the first few practices the band has been using the armory, and are now meeting four nights weekly. After the concert the band will entertain those who assist in the program, and some other invited guests at an informal luncheon.

At the practice meeting on Wednesday night an invitation was received from the Rickreall band to attend their first annual concert, to be held Saturday night, and several of the local organization have signified their intention of accepting.

TEACHER IS STRICKEN

**Mrs. H. J. Peavy, Employed in Balla-
ston Schools, Drops Dead at Her
Home Tuesday Night.**

Suddenly stricken down with what is supposed to have been heart disease, Mrs. H. J. Peavy, a teacher in the Ballston public schools, dropped dead at her home in that place at 10 o'clock Tuesday night, April 8. She had been as well as usual during the day and filled her position in the school room, complaining of no illness. She was about 33 years of age, and her husband was principal of the Ballston school. The couple came to Oregon from Pennsylvania about two years ago, and last year were stationed at Lewisville. Superintendent Seymour had a very high regard for Mrs. Peavy as a teacher, and says the schools of the county will keenly feel her loss.

Funeral services will be held in Ballston at 11:30 this morning, and the remains will be shipped to Pennsylvania for interment.

Miss Phoebe Wyatt, of McCoy, has been appointed by Superintendent Seymour to take the place in the Ballston schools made vacant by Mrs. Peavy's sudden death.

DALLAS DOG WINS HONORS

**Kearth's Maltese Terrier Garners
Ribbons at Portland Bench Show.**

Winning first prize in his class, and "winner's reserve," or second place in the sweepstakes in all classes of his breed, W. J. Kearth's maltese terrier or French poodle came back from the Portland bench show loaded with honors. In the sweepstakes competition the Dallas dog came into direct competition with six others, all winners in their respective classes, and the fact that he took second place in this close contest, is cause for congratulation on the part of his owners. Objection was made by a Portland entrant to the prize coming to Dallas, and the claim was set up that the entry from this city was late. It was proven that stormy weather was the cause of the delay and the objection was disallowed. C. D. Nairn, of Perrydale, owner of the "Shadeland Collie Farm," carried off several prizes on his entries.

TO OPEN NEW LOGGING CAMP.

**Dallas Company to Log Small Tract
Near Falls City.**

The Dallas Lumber and Logging company, of this city, is making arrangements to open some time during the present month, a logging camp between Falls City and Black Rock to clear up between two and three million feet left over from former logging operations.

**Dayton Man Tells of Flood
And Conditions in Ohio City**

**Charles Bronson Writes to Dallas
Relatives; Had Close Call While
Engaged in Rescue Work
He Says.**

Giving a graphic account of the flood in Dayton, Ohio, and of his own experience and that of others, Charles Bronson, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Bronson and brother of George Bronson and of Mrs. J. E. Sibley and Mrs. Hort C. Eakin, of this city, has written Mrs. Eakin of conditions in the stricken city. His letter is in an optimistic vein and he declares that while the city has been severely wounded it will arise within a year, a larger and a better city than ever before. The Observer herewith prints some extracts from his letter which will be of interest:

A Terrible Flood.

"This certainly was a terrible flood but the Bronsons were high and dry. We live in Daytonview and were well up above the high water mark. The flood came during Monday night and early Tuesday morning, so, you see, I was not yet at school; anyhow his school was also above the high water mark and only four squares from where we live. Ada's (Mrs. Bronson's) sister and family, her brother and Fred Eike's family were in the flood district, but the water did not quite reach the second floor. I got them out on Thursday, the third day of the flood. I have been working like all others outside the flood district ever since last Tuesday getting people out and helping to take care of them after they got out. Another fellow, Walter Matthews and myself, were ducked and lost our boat the first day of the flood, in the most dangerous flood section. We caught in a small tree just as the current was taking us out into the river. We caught the last tree we could have gotten and hung there for three hours until a boat was let out to us with a rope from the attic of a house, then the boat was pulled in with a rope. No boat could have rowed to us.

Whole Business Section.

"The whole business section was

affected. The water was about 10 feet deep all over it, and also over a good many of the residence sections. We are under martial law. All our supplies of every kind must come from out of town, because we have no business section of any consequence left outside the flood. There is no business being done at present—everybody is busy with the shovel, clearing out the mud.

"The Rike-Kandler Company (department store in which Mr. Bronson is interested) was of course, in the flood. Their basement and first floor were in the water, but they have five floors above which were not in the water and they will do a tremendous business as soon as they can get the mud out of the first floor and the basement, so they can start their elevators.

First in 150 Years.

"Dayton has been in existence for 150 years and this is the first time it has been under water—that is—nine-tenths of the section flooded this time has never been under water before; so you see there is not much danger of its ever happening again. Of course there are some sections of the town, like all others, that occasionally are under water.

"Dayton is not wiped off the map, as newspapers first said. It will be rebuilt, or rather repaired within a year and be a better town than ever, like San Francisco. The lives lost will probably not exceed 200—only 120 have been reported so far. The property loss has been heavy, but everybody is going right ahead, and will soon replace their loss by doing more business than ever.

Communication Difficult.

"I suppose my telegram to you went through all right. Our telephone offices were under water and I sent my message from a relief station. It had to be taken out of town by an automobile to be sent. We had no water in our pipes for three or four days, and had to catch rain water, but have the water now. We are still without natural gas and are cooking in our furnace and on a coal oil stove. We are still without electricity light and I am writing this by the light of a candle."

March Mortality Shows Increase

**With a Total of 13 Deaths and 21
Births, Average for Month Is
Declared Good.**

That the mortality rate for Polk county for the month of March is slightly more than the average, and exceeds the usual percentage in relation to births, is the statement of County Health Officer Dr. R. H. McCullon. This is attributed to the fact that the month of March usually has one of the highest death rates of the year. This is the time of year when one's system is more susceptible to disease, and the sudden changes peculiar to the spring season also add to the general unhealthfulness of the month.

For the month of March there were 13 deaths in the county and 21 births, Dallas leads with 5, Independence 3,

Rickreall, Falls City, Airlie, Greenwood and Monmouth one each.

Dallas leads with seven births for month; Independence 3, Falls City two, Perrydale two, and Lincoln, Black Rock, Eola, West Salem, Monmouth, Airlie and Luckiamute, one each.

At the recent meeting of the state health board, held in Portland on March 27 and 28, health officers from the different counties of the state were present and made reports on the mortality statistics of their counties. In this report, Polk county was rated very fair, with a percentage of a trifle over 7½, the average being 8. At this meeting the board and the health officers discussed matters pertaining to the health of the state and sanitary methods to be employed in hospitals and on all public works, and general topics concerning the welfare of the people.

Everything, From Guns to Bread

**Rural Mail Carrier's Wagon Mis-
taken For Hunter's
Equipage.**

That the parcels post advantages are being utilized by the patrons of the Dallas postoffice at least, is evidenced by Rural Carrier Milt Grant, of Route No. 2. When he left town the other morning on his regular trip, besides his usual quota of mail the carrier had tacked in his rig, five packages of meat, 18 loaves of bread and a Winchester rifle. It resembled the ordinary equipage of a hunter, or a well-loaded wagon of supplies for the Balkan army.

"What's the matter, Milt?" asked a friend who met him and the load in

the road, "quit your job and going on a hunting trip?"

"Naw, I ain't goin' on no huntin' trip," indignantly returned the representative of Uncle Samuel, "I'm a mail carrier, I am."

"Well, I didn't know; saw your gun and the bread, and the meat, and it looked to me like a well provisioned hunting equipment."

Milt says he carries everything one can imagine on his daily trips and is having his equipment loaded down with all sorts of supplies and instruments of cookery and husbandry.

There is no question regarding the success of the parcels post, nor of the readiness of the people to take advantage of this latest wrinkle in the post-department.

ATTRACTIVE PROGRAM READY EOLA BASKET SOCIAL SOON.

**Band Concert and Basket Social at
Rickreall Saturday Night.**

Following is the program for the band concert and basket social to be held at Rickreall on Saturday night, April 12:

Music, Band.
Male Quartet.
Music, Band.
Vocal solo, Mrs. Henry Bassett.
Music, Band.
Vocal Duett, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Miller.
Music, Band.
Select Reading, Miss Katherine Fox.
Vocal solo, Mrs. J. K. Chase.
Music, Band.
Basketball will be held after the program.

**Teachers and Parents Plan Entertain-
ing Evening.**

The "Teachers" and "Parents' Club," of Eola, will have a basket social in the school house for the benefit of the school. The popular play, "A Quiet Family" is being prepared. Several pieces from the orchestra in Dallas are expected, and a few vocal selections. It was to be a show-bus social, but has been changed. The ladies are expected to bring baskets. A special invitation is extended to the other clubs of the county. Come, help make ours a success, and we will return the compliment. Time, Friday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. Everybody invited.

**LATE POLK COUNTY
NEWS TOLD IN
BRIEFS**

**HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST IN
VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS
RELATED IN ENTERTAIN-
ING MANNER.**

OBSERVER SPECIAL SERVICE

**Observer Representatives Keep in
Touch With All Matters of Import-
ance in Their Part of the Famous
"Blue Ribbon" District of the
State of Oregon.**

FALLS CITY

S. H. Tetherow has been quite sick this week, but is improving at this time.

Miss Lela Frink is spending the week at the William Ford home, in the city.

Misses Jennie Elkins and Blanche Graham were Salem visitors Wednesday.

W. B. Stevens and George F. Skiff have opened up a real estate office, using the latter's law office for quarters.

Mrs. Eleanor F. Butler transacted business at the county seat Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Myer visited in Dallas Friday.

W. E. Russel, a former resident of Falls City, returned to the city last week and has moved into the C. J. Richey house on South Main street.

Ira B. Lowe, of Portland, is spending the week at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jonah Lowe.

William Ellis attended to business in Dallas Saturday.

Miss Mae Lynch spent the week-end at her home near Salem.

Commissioner S. H. Petre was in the city on business Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Gardner went to Williams Monday, having received word of the death of the latter's nephew, Lee Tate, who passed away Monday morning.

B. F. Boughie, of Salem, transacted business here this week.

Mrs. Goldia Hooker returned Monday from a short visit with relatives in Brownsville.

A very interesting silver medal contest was held in the Christian church Monday night of this week. One of the largest crowds yet assembled for these programs was present. The judges awarded the medal to Jessie Griffin. C. O. Johnson presented the medal, after a few well chosen remarks.

Denis Brothers' sawmill will start up for a steady run in a few days. This will give employment to several more men.

William Finley has been seriously ill most of the week, but at this time he is some better.

Everett Gwinn, of Dallas, was in the city on business Tuesday. He is thinking of going into business here.

The silver medal contest held in the Christian church last Monday night was a success. The church was filled. The judges were J. C. Talbot, Mrs. Bert Robinson and Mrs. C. J. Moyer. They awarded the medal to Jessie Griffin. C. O. Johnson presented the medal and spoke words of praise for the W. C. T. U. He said the medal contest department was on the right track. The offering taken was more than enough for expenses, and as a result five dollars more has been banked for the drinking fountain fund, making a total of fifteen dollars.

At the annual city election, held last Monday, the following officers were elected: Mayor, F. K. Hubbard; Councilmen—C. D. Hopkins, Albert Teal, A. Sampson, Auditor, C. W. Lee, Marshal, Wilbur Lewis. The proposed amendment to the city charter, whereby costs of street improvement would be met by the city treasury, instead of being assessed to the property owners, was defeated by a vote of 139 to 57. This means that there will be considerable street work done this coming summer. Of the 232 voters, 66 were women.

MONMOUTH

Mr. Clapp, of Pleasant Valley, passed through town one day last week with his household goods, going to The Dalles, where he will make his future home. He shipped by boat.

John Cox, of Airlie, passed through town the latter part of the week with his household goods, moving to Independence, where he formerly lived.

H. Brockley, of Portland, was in town Friday.

R. Conliffe, of Dallas, was in town Saturday with his usual smile.

W. O. Meadon, of Salem, was in town last week looking after his interests here.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Phillips, of Walls, Walla, are the guests of Mrs. Phillips.

(Continued on Page Three)